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## U.S. Embassy in Guyana

### U.S. Embassy condemns the resolution by the National Assembly to honor a convicted terrorist

The U.S. Embassy in Georgetown condemns the resolution by Guyana's National Assembly, reportedly honoring the life and work of convicted terrorist Abdul Kadir. Kadir was sentenced to life in prison in the United States after being found guilty of plotting a 2007 terrorist attack at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Members of the National Assembly, therefore, chose to honor a man who conspired to kill innocent people from across the United States and around the world. This resolution is an insensitive and thoughtless act, which demonstrates the National Assembly's disregard for the gravity of Kadir's actions.

While speaking at an International Peace Conference recently, U.S. Ambassador Sarah-Ann Lynch held up Guyana as "a model to the world on religious tolerance and understanding." The National Assembly's resolution of April 26 draws into question that reputation. It also comes on the heels of Guyana's historic cooperation with the United States on the extradition of an alleged murderer. Members of Parliament have placed this resolution in direct contradiction to the efforts of security cooperation between our two countries.

With this resolution, honoring a convicted terrorist, members of Guyana's National Assembly have left a stain on their legacy as representatives of the Guyanese people and on their commitment to the rule of law.

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### **PRESS STATEMENT**

The People's Progressive Party (PPP), condemns the Motion that was passed in the National Assembly on the 26th day of April 2019, which PPP/C Parliamentarians did not attend.

The Motion that was in the name of the controversial former Housing Minister, now Minister of Rural Agriculture, Valerie Patterson-Yearwood, read:

*"Be it resolved, that this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Abdul Kadir, on 28th June, 2018, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of Parliament where he served in the Eighth Parliament, from 17th April, 2001 to 2nd May, 2006, and to the people of Guyana."*

The use of the National Assembly, Guyana's highest decision-making body, to honor the People's National Congress (PNC) former Member of Parliament, who was convicted in the United States for plotting to blow up the John F. Kennedy International Airport, is another act of betrayal of democracy and the rule of law as it is clearly not reflective of the will of the people of Guyana. Guyanese are known as peaceful and law-abiding citizens, at home and abroad.

The PNC has a history of honoring and exonerating violent criminals. Linden 'Blackie' London whose reign of terror ended when he was killed in a shootout with law enforcement services of Guyana, was honored by PNC leaders, who infamously draped Blackie's coffin with Guyana's national flag, the Golden Arrowhead. In addition, the five prison escapees who wreaked havoc and were responsible for murder, mayhem and an unprecedented crime wave, were dubbed 'freedom fighters' by many leaders of the PNC.

The Lindo Creek Commission of Inquiry(COI), during which the father of a sitting Minister was its lone Commissioner and the brother of another Minister its legal counsel, was aimed at “exonerating” Rondell "Fineman" Rawlins. All of these actions show a pattern of association and glorification of homegrown terrorists.

The use of a Parliamentary Resolution is now an indelible stain on our people and national character that will not easily be forgiven or forgotten by those who have suffered at the hands of international terrorism.

People' Progresive Party

***April 27th, 2019***



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## Stabroek News

### House pays tribute to late former MP Abdul Kadir

By Staff Writer On April 27, 2019 @ 2:14 am In Guyana News |

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The National Assembly yesterday reflected on the achievements of former parliamentarian Abdul Kadir, who died in a United States prison after being convicted of terrorism-related offences.

A motion, which sought to offer sympathy to Kadir's sorrowing widow, children and relatives, was passed unopposed. The opposition PPP/C was not present in the House as it boycotted the sitting.

Kadir, who died on June 28th, 2018, served in the Eighth Parliament, from April 17th, 2001 to May 2nd, 2006 as a parliamentarian for the then opposition PNC/R. At the time of his death at age 66, Kadir was serving a life sentence for plotting to blow up fuel tanks at the John F Kennedy Airport in New York.

Minister within the Ministry of Communities Valarie Adams-Yearwood, who moved the motion, told the House that Kadir was "a great man, a stalwart, a bold and courageous man."

She urged that the National Assembly records its deep regret at his death and pay tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana.

Kadir, a chemical engineer who previously worked in the bauxite industry, was sentenced by a US court to life in 2010 after being convicted, while his co-conspirator, another Guyanese Abdel Nur, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to 15 years in 2011.

Prosecutors had said that the bomb plot was hatched in January 2006 by Russell De Freitas, a Guyanese who is a US citizen, and reportedly involved blowing up jet fuel tanks leading to the airport.

Born Michael Seaforth in Buxton, Kadir was convicted of conspiracy to attack a public transportation system; conspiracy to destroy a building by fire or explosive; conspiracy to attack aircraft and aircraft materials; conspiracy to destroy international airport facilities; and conspiracy to attack a mass transportation facility.

He had maintained his innocence and testified that he was not involved in the terrorism scheme but that he had feigned interest in the plan because he hoped its architects would help him raise money to build a mosque.

Trinidadian Kareem Ibrahim, who was charged and convicted in the same plot and was sentenced to life, died in a US prison in 2016 at the age of 70.

As a Member of Parliament for the then opposition PNC/R, Kadir served as the Regional Representative for Region 10. He had also previously served as Mayor of Linden from 1994 to 1996.

Current Region 10 parliamentarian Audwin Rutherford also spoke of his personal experiences with Kadir, while stressing that Linden, Guyana and the National Assembly is "lesser for his passing."

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Article printed from Stabroek News: <https://www.stabroeknews.com>

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